

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea/Manchuria

SUBJECT Economic Conditions and Military Movements
in North Korea and Manchuria

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1. At Changsong (125-19, 125-48) (BA 7001) in early November 1950, rice and vegetables were plentiful and commodity prices in general were very low. A consumers' guild controlled the sale of all products in the area and rationed the necessities. The city was visited frequently by Manchurian merchants who reached Changsong by crossing the Suifu Reservoir (125-02, 125-32) (IS 7085) in small sailboats, bringing cigarettes, opium, and Manchurian whiskey in exchange for rice and vegetables. The authorities in the city tacitly permitted such smuggling, and sometimes local police at various border points issued permits after investigation.
2. In mid-November 1950 there were temporarily stored for shipment to Korea thousands of drums of gasoline in Sian, Manchuria. In front of the railway station in Sian there were about 200 Soviet trucks awaiting transfer to Korea. In Tunghua, Manchuria, the North Korean 6 Division was being retrained and re-equipped.
3. The majority of the passengers on a train which left Harbin for Kirin, Manchuria, in late November were Soviet troops.

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